

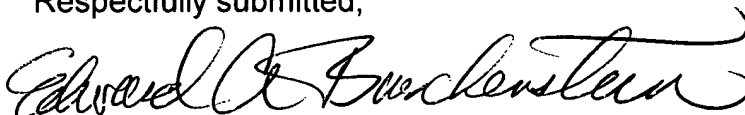
Appl. No. (based on PCT/US2004/021265)  
Preliminary Amdt. dated December 16, 2005

**REMARKS**

Applicants file this amendment contemporaneously with the application to which it pertains, that application representing a conversion of international application PCT US2004/021265 into a U.S. national stage application.

Claims 1-13, which are set forth in this amendment, correspond to claims 1-13 considered by the European Patent Office in the PCT application. Indeed, the European Patent Office in its International Preliminary Examination Report concluded that those claims set forth an invention that possesses both novelty and an inventive step (unobvious).

Respectfully submitted,



Edward A. Boeschenstein  
Reg. No. 22,986  
Polster, Lieder, Woodruff & Lucchesi, L.C.  
12412 Powerscourt Drive, Suite 200  
St. Louis, Missouri 63131-3615  
Telephone: (314) 238-2400  
Facsimile: (314) 238-2401